

A New Out-of-Country German Perfin?

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German perfined stamps are sometimes found with postmarks of towns and cities of other countries. The reason for some is conquest and occupation. German occupation of Austria is an example. Occupation occurred from 1938 to 1945. Figure 1 shows a Wien (Vienna) cancel on a German stamp canceled 6-IX-40.

Figure 2 shows a Danzig postmark on a German stamp postmarked 1-11-13. Danzig has a history of varied occupying powers through the centuries - till 1919 when it became a free state. Poland, Russia, Germany and Prussia controlled it from time to time. However, in 1913 it was probably under Prussia's control. And Prussia at that time was part of the German Empire: hence the use of German stamps.



Fig.1

Fig. 2

Fig. 3

Undoubtedly, other examples of out-of-country cancels can be cited for German perfins. I should like to report an unusual (or perhaps accidental) one.

As I was examining a desktop of German perfins, I noticed an odd-shaped postmark (Fig. 3). Close examination revealed a Lisboa Central (Lisbon, Portugal) cancel with the date 7-10-33. I realize that Germany was involved in the Spanish Civil War of 1936-1939, but I have no knowledge of any Germany/Portugal connection in 1933. The perfin is PK/J (ARGE Catalog 2.PKJ,1) and is one commonly found in the 1930-1941 period with Berlin postmarks.

This note is not intended to review the complete out-of-country German postmark situation, but simply to report a new and unusual postmark on a German perfined stamp. It would, however, be nice to know if this stamp has any political significance or if it is just an accidental usage. Regardless, I count it as a welcome addition to my collection of German perfins.